

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 091030Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4692
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SF, WA

SUBJECT: QUALIFIED PLANS TO END SOME RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
IN NAMIBIA

1. LEADER OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, NATIONAL PARTY'S DIRK MUDGE, HAS PROPOSED THREE MEASURES DESIGNED TO EASE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN NAMIBIA. BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY LEGISLATIVE STUDY GROUP, HE SAID JUNE 5 THAT SWA GOVERNMENT WILL, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, (1) OPEN HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS TO ALL RACES, (2) REMOVE APARTHEID SIGNS FROM PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND (3) PROMOTE MORE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR AFRICANS WITHIN NAMIBIA. MUDGE QUALIFIED EACH PROPOSAL AND, EVEN WITH BEST OF GOODWILL, THEY WILL TAKE TIME TO IMPLEMENT.

2. DECISION TO DESEGREGATE HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS IS LEFT TO
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INDIVIDUAL OWNERS WHO MUST APPLY FOR PERMISSION FROM AUTHORITIES

TO DO SO. IF PERMISSION GRANTED, SIGN MUST BE POSTED IN CONSPICUOUS PLACE INDICATING TACT THAT ESTABLISHMENT OPEN TO ALL RACES. ACCORDING TO WELL-INFORMED WINDHOEK JOURNALIST, MUDGE HAS STATED PRIVATELY THAT ALL REQUESTS WILL BE EXPEDITIOUSLY AND FAVORABLY HANDLED. HOWEVER, CERTAIN ORDINANCES WILL MOST LIKELY HAVE TO BE REPEALED BY SWA LEGISLATURE, WHICH ENDED ITS SESSION JUNE 6 AND IS NOT DUE TO MEET AGAIN UNTIL NOVEMBER.

3. APARTHEID SIGNS ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS CONTROLLED BY SOUTH WEST GOVERNMENT WILL BE REMOVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, MANY GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS COME UNDER AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. AGAIN ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER SOURCE, MUDGE HAS ALREADY ASKED SAG TO MOVE QUICKLY ON THIS MATTER. APPARENTLY NO LEGISLATION WILL HAVE TO BE PASSED OR REPEALED TO EFFECT THE CHANGES. HOWEVER, SOME NECESSARY RECONSTRUCTION OF OFFICES, E.G. TEARING DOWN DIVIDING WALLS, MAY SLOW PROCESS.

4. PROMISE OF FREER MOVEMENT QUALIFIED BY MUDGE WITH AVOWAL THAT INFLUX CONTROL WILL REMAIN. HE MADE NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AS TO MANNER BY WHICH FREER MOVEMENT WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED, BUT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS THORNY ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED BY BOTH SWA AND SOUTH AFRICAN LEGISLATURES. LATTER ENDS ITS SESSION ON OR ABOUT JUNE 20 AND WILL NOT RECONVENE UNTIL LATE JANUARY.

5. COMMENT: IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE EFFECT OF PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIAN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCENE. THEIR QUALIFIED AND LIMITED NATURE ARE NOT SURPRISING, NOR IS GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THEM AMONG UN DELEGATES WHICH PRESS REPORTING HERE. HOWEVER, THEY PROBABLY BEST SEEN IN REFLECTED LIGHT OF MOVEMENT TO GET CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS STARTED IN NAMIBIA, RATHER THAN IN HARSH BEAM FOCUSED FROM UN. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT SAG PLACING HEAVY EMPHASIS ON CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS TO FIND NAMIBIAN SOLUTION AND DEFUSE NEGATIVE WORLD OPINION. IF MUDGE'S STATEMENT OF INTENT SERVES TO BRING REMAINING TWO GROUPS, DAMARAS AND HEREROS, TO CONFERENCE TABLE, THEN PROPOSALS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR ULTIMATE EFFECT, WILL BE JUDGED AS SUCCESSFUL MANEUVER BY SAG.

BOWDLER

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